

Referrals

If you would like to refer a youth or make a self-referral to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program or obtain more information about these services, please contact the independent living specialist or supervisor nearest you:



Boone County CD
1500 Vandiver Dr.
Suite 103
Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 884-4197

Buchanan County CD
525 Jules, Rm. 127
St. Joseph, MO 64501
(816) 387-2961

Cape Girardeau County CD
130 South Frederick
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702
(573) 290-5800

Greene County CD
101 Park Central Square
Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 895-6166

Jackson County CD
615 E. 13th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 889-2185

Jasper County CD
601 Commercial
Joplin, MO 64802
(417) 629-3050

Jefferson Cotty CD
10325 Highway 21
Hillsboro, MO 6305
(636) 797-9601

Lafayette County CD
736 State Route 13
Lexington, MO 64067
(660) 259-2294

Phelps County CD
1111 Kingshighway, Suite A
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 368-2340

Shelby County CD
301 East Main St.
Shelbyville, MO 63469
(573) 633-2550

St. Francois County CD
140 Staples Drive
Park Hills, MO 63601
(573) 431-6592

St. Louis City CD
111 North 7th
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 340-7185 or
(314) 340-7184

St. Louis County CD
9900 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132
(314) 426-8433 or
(314) 890-7331



Children's Division
Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103

www.dss.mo.gov/dfs/chafee/index.htm

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

DFS/CS-ILP-5 3/02

CHAFEE



Making Choices Toward Independence

What is Chafee?

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 passed by Congress offers important new help to young people in and transitioning from foster care. The act was signed into law on December 14, 1999, by Pres. Bill Clinton.

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) replaces the former Independent Living Program. The program was named in honor of the late Senator John H. Chafee, one of the original Senate sponsors of the act.

CFCIP is administered by the Missouri Children's Division to help youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 make a successful, self-sufficient and productive transitioning to adulthood. CFCIP also expands the Independent Living Program to provide services to youth who have left foster care after age 18, but have not yet reached age 21.

Who is Eligible?

For the Youth Still in Out-of-Home Care

Each area's program is designed to meet the needs of its population. Program length for youth in foster care varies from six to nine months of classroom instruction, which includes lectures, speakers, videos,

group discussions and activities. Each youth receives a small stipend and other incentives for attending group and completing homework. Field trips, summer camps, weekend retreats, day seminars and community services are also part of the program.

Aftercare services

may include support groups, newsletters, community resource referrals, education/training referrals, scholarships, and recreational activities.

Former Foster Youth ages 18-21

Youth who have left foster care after age 18 but have not yet reached age 21 are now eligible for the same independent living services as foster children. In addition, the following services may be available.

• **Emergency funds** are considered short-term "quick fix" opportunities that will enable the young adult to continue with his or her efforts to become independent. This might include: auto repairs, utility payments, food and rent. Throughout our adult lives, we may encounter emergency or crisis situations. When this occurs, we look to our family or friends for assistance. Some young adults may not have these resources. These funds can be used to assist when possible.

• **Support services** provide referrals to resources. This support service may be one-on-one contact for guidance or to just talk to someone they trust about what is happening in their lives. Each young person should have an identified personal advisor who could be a community member, co-worker, job mentor, friend, someone they recognize who has a personal interest in them and truly cares about them.

• **Educational assistance** may include realistic goal setting, selecting the appropriate resource, or assistance in completing financial aid forms. Resources and programs can be provided through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Higher Education. This program may also provide some limited tuition/book assistance.

• **Job training** may consist of a referral to a training site with possible financial assistance during the training period. Training in an occupation may enable young adults to find more than a part time job and become self-sufficient.

• **Housing** (room and board expenses) would be considered as a safe shelter that could best meet the young adult's needs. These funds are meant to be flexible and short term, 90 days or less to stabilize a particular situation. The funds may be used for a variety of reasons as a support, not as an on-going supplemental funding source.

This may include any or all of the following: food, rent, security deposits, utility deposits, start-up kits which can include supplies and necessary furniture.